



# FIRST FACTS



A monthly publication of **First Presbyterian Church** · Cape Girardeau, Missouri · November 2016

## Greetings from Pastor Terry Epling

As you probably know by now, the Session has contracted with me as the Transitional Pastor as you engage the process of calling your next installed Pastor. At this point we expect that I'll serve you until the end of May. In the Spring the Session will make a decision about whether an extension will be needed based on how the pastoral search is proceeding. For now, I look forward to journeying with you through the seasons of Advent and Christmas, and Lent and Easter until Pentecost.



You're probably wondering about me and my story. I am originally from Pikeville, Kentucky, a small town in the beautiful eastern mountains. I'm the oldest of four children. I attended a Presbyterian college in my hometown. I was active in the life of the church as a choir member and later as a Sunday School teacher and member of the session.

After college I taught high school art for five years. During that time my pastor encouraged me to consider professional ministry. After some discernment, I enrolled at Louisville Seminary. That was where I met my wife, Annie, who was also studying for the ministry. My first call was as Campus Minister at the University of Wisconsin in Stevens Point.

In 2000 Annie and I moved to St. Louis as she answered a call as Pastor of Faith Des Peres Presbyterian Church in St. Louis County. For our first two years in St. Louis I worked at Ladue Chapel leading an adult education series called the Lee Institute. In 2001 the Presbytery called me as Stated Clerk. Since then I've supplied pulpits and done temporary pastorates with congregations during transitional periods. I also consult with congregations throughout the country on capital campaign and stewardship programs through Church Campaign Services.

My family life has also been full. Annie and I have four children. Henry is a first year student at The College of Wooster. Tommy is a junior at Kirkwood High School. Julia is in eighth grade. Charlotte is a third grader. Our children are all active in Scouting. Henry is an Eagle Scout and Tommy is working on his Eagle project now. I've been the Troop Chaplain and a committee member for many years. They all play various instruments, Julia more than one, in band and orchestra, and we all love music. We also have several pets: two dogs, a bearded dragon, and two fish tanks. Charlotte is currently lobbying for a cat.

I am in the office on Mondays and Tuesdays most weeks. I have an apartment at The Chateau. You can reach me throughout the week by email at [terry.epling1@gmail.com](mailto:terry.epling1@gmail.com) or on my phone at 314-402-7929. Thank you for the warm welcome I've felt here. I look forward to getting to know you better. This church is blessed with so many gifts. I trust that my brief time with you will help you move toward the future to which God is already calling you. I look forward to the journey together.

Reverend Terry Epling

## **Congregational Meeting**

The Session is calling a Special Meeting of the Congregation to be held at the end of the Worship Service on Sunday, November 6, 2016. The two-fold purpose of the meeting will be to amend our church Bylaws regarding the number of Elders to be on the Session and to nominate and elect Elders for the Class of 2019 and two At-Large members for the Nominating Committee.

Our current Bylaws, Article IV, Section Two states: The number of Ruling Elders to serve on the Session shall be Twelve ( 12 ). The term of office for each Ruling Elder shall be three ( 3 ) years. At a special meeting of the Membership of the Corporation, four ( 4 ) Ruling Elders shall be elected for a term of three ( 3 ) years. Such election shall be conducted as provided in the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church ( U.S.A.)

The following is the Session's proposed change to the Bylaws, Article IV, Section Two: The number of Ruling Elders to serve on the Session shall be no more than twelve ( 12 ). The term of office for each Ruling Elder shall be three ( 3 ) years. At a special meeting of the membership of the Corporation each October or November, the appropriate number of Ruling Elders shall be elected for a term of three ( 3 ) years to keep each class as equal in number as possible. Such election shall be conducted as provided in the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

During the Congregational Meeting, the Nominating Committee will nominate Michael Brown, Joyce Rayfield and Charles Wiles to be Elders in the Class of 2019, and Dr. Ed Burford and Sharon McCune to serve as At-Large members of the Nominating Committee in 2017 and 2018.

Their biographies of service to the church follow:

**Michael Brown:** Mike and his wife Kathleen have been members of this church for 30 years. He has previously served as both a Deacon and an Elder and is currently a member of the Finance Committee. Born and raised in Salina, KS, Mike served with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. After military service, he completed a bachelor's degree in Sociology, a Masters in Administration of Justice and a PhD. In Criminal Justice. He began his career in law enforcement with the Wichita, KS, Police Dept. In 1976, he began his teaching career at Southeast Missouri State University. While at Southeast as a faculty member, he became Chairperson of the Dept. of Criminal Justice and Associate Dean of the College of Health and Human Services. He also served as Director of the University's Law Enforcement Academy for its first 25 years. Dr. Brown continues to teach in the Department of Criminal Justice and at the Academy.

**Joyce Rayfield:** Joyce has been a member of our church since the spring of 2011. She served as an Elder on the Session from January, 2012 through December, 2014. Joyce also has served as Chairman of the Finance and Stewardship Committee, a member of the Christian Education Committee, and co-chairman of the Fellowship Committee. She presently serves as a member of the Fellowship Committee and also has assisted with Vacation Bible School for several years. Prior to becoming a member of this church, Joyce was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Paducah, KY, for 16 years. There she served on the Session and on the Finance and Stewardship Committee, taught in children's Sunday School and was Moderator of Circles for Presbyterian Women. Joyce is employed at Rust and Martin Interiors as Mike Rust's secretary.

Charles Wiles: Charles is an ordained Elder, having served on the Session previously for three years. He also served as a member of the Executive/Personnel Committee for two years and served as Chair of the Communications Committee for three years. He is currently serving as Treasurer of the Church.

Charles is a retired professor and administrator from Southeast Missouri State University after working there for 40 years.

During the 1993-94 year he served as President of Optimist International. During the time he served as a Board Member, Vice President, President-Elect and President he traveled to all 50 states, 8 Provinces in Canada and 14 foreign countries.

Charles is married to Judy Wiles, who is the Chair of the Management and Marketing Department at the University.

He has two grown daughters and 5 grandchildren.

Dr. Ed Burford: Ed has been a member of First Presbyterian Church in Cape Girardeau for over 40 years. He has served as an Elder, Clerk of Session, Sunday School teacher, member of previous Nominating Committees, member of Music and Worship Committee, choir member, and occasional pianist for church services and occasional provider of special piano music. A retired physician, Ed has been married to his wife Sue for over 60 years. They have two children, David and Grace Anne.

Sharon McCune: Sharon has been a member of First Presbyterian Church since 1988. She has served on The Evangelism and Property committees and is currently a member of the Fellowship and Christian Outreach committees. She was employed as the church Office Manager for 17 years. Sharon has been married to Sam McCune for 48 years, and they have two daughters, Kelli and Kristen. Kelli and her husband Wade Pierce live in Poplar Bluff and have three children, and Kristen lives in Cape.

**The Christian Outreach Prayer Team** encourages the whole church to pray intentionally each day for the church and for its members and friends. We believe that a commitment to prayer will improve our personal spiritual life and also our connection to one another as a faith community.

In order to encourage prayer with and for one another, the Prayer Team invites everyone to commit to pray daily at a time convenient for you for specific concerns lifted up by the Prayer Team. In November we propose that you pray:

Week 1 – For those who mourn as in worship on All Saints Sunday (Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>) we remember those who have died;

Week 2- For our country and community before and after the November 8<sup>th</sup> elections;

Week 3 – For the church’s discernment of its future as the Mission Study Team brings its report to the Session on November 20<sup>th</sup>;

Week 4 – With gratitude to God for our many blessings and gifts as we observe Thanksgiving on November 24<sup>th</sup>.

In addition, the Prayer Team invites you in worship to share your joys and concerns on the prayer cards in the pews. Simply fill out a card and place it in the offering plate to be included in the prayers of the people that day. In this way the whole church can effectively join you in public prayer.

## Sunday School

**NURSERY:** Our nursery is open from 9 a.m. on Sunday morning through our worship service, for children birth through kindergarten. Children will be escorted upstairs from the nursery to the worship service for the "Kids" Message and then will return to the nursery. In the nursery they may participate in a brief Sunday School lesson and activity. Children are welcome to join their parents for the worship service at any time. **Parents come to the nursery after worship to pick up their children.**

**CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL:** The Children's and Youth Classes meet in their classrooms directly after the "Kid's Message" in the worship service. The Elementary Class (Kindergarten through Fourth Grade) will meet in the classroom next to the Nursery. Cherie Herbst and Kathy Woodfin will be teaching this class. The curriculum will continue to focus on "The Stories of the Old Testament" based on the *Read and Learn Bible*. The Middle School/Junior High Class will meet in their classroom upstairs on the second floor. Their lessons are focusing on a study of the 66 books of the Bible and on how to use the Bible as a part of their everyday lives. This class will be team taught by Kathy Brown, Melissa Harris, Sandy Wilhelm, and Laura Brown.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS:** Please join us on Sunday morning from 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. in the adult library. The Christian Outreach committee met in August with Sam Roethemeyer and he talked about the book "Pray Like Jesus" by John R. Brokoff. This is a great opportunity for us to learn to pray like Jesus. Each week we will read a chapter on our own time and return on the next Sunday to discuss it. There are books available in the church office if you are interested. This is a study that will conclude by Christmas. We hope to see you there! If you have any questions please contact Nancy Bray or Melissa Harris.

### Stated Meeting of the Session 2016

At the Stated Meeting on October 16, 2016, the Session:

1. Appointed Nancy Bray Acting Clerk in the absence of Barbara Calvin.
2. Accepted the resignation of Elder Scott Harrison from the Class of 2019 on the Session because of his family's recent move out of town.
3. Received written and oral progress reports from Mission Study Team representatives Georganne Syler and Judy Rueseler in the absence of Team member Elder Harvey Hecht. They are pleased with response of church members to their survey (53 returned) and plan to have final Mission Study document for the Nov. 20 Session meeting.
4. Approved revised Funeral Policy for our church submitted by Christian Outreach Committee. A copy of it to be included in Nov. First Facts.
5. Received Mission Committee report our church will sponsor the turkeys for the Amen Center Thanksgiving meal.
6. Approved recommendation from Personnel Committee to hire choir member Sheri Mitchell, a professional musician and music educator, as our temporary Music/ Choir Director effective immediately. Also approved Personnel recommendation to hire Jonathan Patterson as our church organist/pianist to begin duties in Nov.
7. Approved recommendation from Property Committee to accept bid of \$887.90 from Dutch Guttering for work on church building gutters.

### Worship Attendance

Oct 2	78
Oct 9	74
Oct 16	72
Oct 23	70
Oct 30	



### November Meal-a-Month

- 2 cans Tomato Soup
- Can of Evaporated Milk
- Box of Crackers
- Can of fruit of choice



On Oct 9, the flowers in the sanctuary were from Ruth Needle in memory of her husband Bill's birthday on Oct. 1.  
On Oct. 23, the flowers in the sanctuary were from Ruth Needle in recognition of her sister Mary Ann Reichert's birthday, on Oct. 22.



### Fish

With the holidays approaching, the FISH Pantry is short on food items for families in need. It could also use additional volunteers. Help with either will be greatly appreciated!



### FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP

Flowers for worship may be shared to celebrate your anniversary, someone's birthday, or in memory of a loved one or friend. They can also just say "Thanks, God!" Please call the church office (335-2579) to sign up for flowers.

### First Facts Newsletter

If you have something to be published in First Facts please have it to the office by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month, preferably emailed.



### Memorials

Memorials have been received in memory of:  
**Kitty Rueseler**, from Bob & Jane Vedder  
**Jean Kaiser**, from Irene Krittenbrink, Madge Ridings, Bill & Patty Kaiser  
**In Honor of :**  
**Barbara Calvin**, from Bekki & John Cook  
**Martha Stickler**, from Veronica D



**A big Thank You to everyone that helped and donated items for the Halloween party.**

**It was a success!! There were 15 children that came.**





## SECOND TUESDAY AT THE CHATEAU

The Second Tuesday at the Chateau group will meet for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, November 8, 2016 at 11:00 A.M. in the Chateau dining room. If you would like to attend please call Sharon Metcalfe at 651 - 5274 or Ruth Needle at 334 - 4515 so that arrangements can be made for a table to accommodate all of us. We will order off the menu with each person being responsible for the lunch cost. All are welcome.



**The next meeting of the Book Club** will be on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the home of Jean Cairns. The book under discussion is "The Light Between Oceans" by M. L. Steadman.



Part of the Wolf rank requirements is that the Scouts come up with a service project, present it to the Pack Committee and get their approval for the project. The Wolf den members decided that they wanted to clean up around the Church. They presented the idea to the Pack Committee and were approved.

The Wolf Den recently completed their service project for the church. Members of the Wolf den and their parents helped to rake leaves, pick up sticks, and pull weeds from the playground at the church.



## Gospel Music plus Chicken and Dumplings Nov. 13

Circle November 13 on your calendar because you want to be in church to feel the spirit of the Gospel music the Choir plans to sing that day! Then after being filled with the spirit of the Choir's special music, you'll want to fill up on the chicken and dumplings dinner being prepared by the Fellowship Committee. Great music, great food, great time with great church friends! Be sure to make a reservation for the meal by signing the pew pad or calling the church office. Do not be among the missing on Nov. 13!



Its official! We have a new Eagle Scout in Troop 4. Hunter Parrish completed and passed his Board.



You are being provided with a copy of our church's revised Funeral Policy which was approved at the October Session meeting. We suggest you become familiar with it and even think about making your own funeral plans if you haven't done so. You are welcome to give a copy of your funeral plans to the church to be kept on file.

## **THE CHRISTIAN FUNERAL**

### **A Witness To The Resurrection**

Christians recognize the inevitability of death, but in the presence of death they witness to their faith that God, in Jesus Christ, has conquered death and raises his children from death to life eternal.

The hope of eternal life is not based upon man's worth, which could only procure judgment and condemnation, but upon the graciousness of God, who loves with an everlasting love all whom He has created. Christians can, therefore, commend to God's care those who die, trusting that by His grace all who truly believe in Him are raised from death to life eternal. In this belief Christians should make the occasion of death a time in which the hope of the gospel is reaffirmed by them with solemn joy.

This guideline is offered to the members of First Presbyterian Church for the time when death comes to someone they love.

1. When death occurs in your family, the first thing to do is to call your minister. Those who are bereaved are not called upon to face death in isolation from their fellow Christians. They can and will be sustained and upheld by God's people. It is therefore appropriate that when a death occurs, the minister be notified immediately, that he may help the bereaved in relating the reality of death to the sustaining reality of the Christian community and the hope to which it witnesses.

A wise Christian will plan for the crises of life well in advance. A family conference held before death occurs may solve many problems and enable funeral arrangements to be made with ease and confidence.

2. Your minister, elders, and fellow-members stand ready to be of practical assistance. Please remember that arrangements for the funeral service should only be made following consultation with the minister.

3. The family is encouraged to hold the funeral service at First Presbyterian Church. In the church we were baptized and dedicated to God. In the church we made our personal confession of faith and became members of the body of Christ. In the church our marriage vows were taken, "as long as we both shall live." In the church we receive Holy Communion – the broken body of Christ, the assurance that our sins should not bar us from heaven. All this we know and experience in the church. Shall we not be buried from the church of the Lord Jesus Christ?

There is no expense of any kind for use of the church. No honoraria are expected by the minister, the organist, the choir/vocalist and the sexton of First Presbyterian Church.\*

\*If you wish to offer an honorarium, the funeral home can suggest amounts appropriate for our community.

4. The funeral service, which is a service of worship, will be conducted with dignity and simplicity. It will be filled with the note of triumph. The mood will be that of victory won. Hope will be based not alone on something we look forward to, but on what we have already experienced in Christ. And yet, the best is yet to be. We know that this is true because of the words and resurrection of Christ. We have comfort. Yes, but comfort through strength. Strength is what God offers His sorrowing children in true worship. Thanks be to Him, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

5. When services are in the church only a few flower arrangements (one to six) are appropriate, in addition to a casket piece. If others arrive, they are placed in the narthex. A funeral pall or flag may be used instead of a casket spray.

6. Friends may be received at the funeral home prior to the time appointed for the service. Friends may also be received at the church before or after the service.

7. If the casket has been opened, let the casket be reverently closed before the service. Claim the promise of Christ:

“My peace I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

8. It is customary for the relatives of the deceased to sit in the front pews of the church. The funeral director can place the casket in front of the sanctuary and arrange the flowers before the hour appointed for the service. The family will gather in the parlor before the service and be ushered to the sanctuary by an officer of the church or the minister at the proper time. The Christian Outreach Committee is responsible for securing from 2-6 ushers as needed.

9. The Christian funeral service is complete in itself and should not be combined with any fraternal or civic rite. If the family desires such rites, they should take place at the funeral home, preferably the evening before.

10. The Witness to the Resurrection may also take the form of a Memorial Service.

11. Either before or after the service, a meal for the family or a reception for those attending the service will be provided by church members in the Fellowship Hall if the family so chooses. Another option is for the church to take a meal to the family home if the family prefers. The Christian Outreach Committee arranges for the Bereavement meal/reception after the minister and family meet to make all arrangements.

Our hearts go out to our friends in any distress, and particularly so in the time of bereavement. It is our earnest hope and prayer that the church may be to all who suffer loss a bulwark of strength and comfort, and may cause all who mourn to hear again the comforting words of our Lord:

“Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.”

The Session (October 16, 2016)  
First Presbyterian Church  
Cape Girardeau, Missouri  
573-335-2579



## NOVEMBER PRAYER CALENDAR

The Session hopes you will use this 'Prayer Calendar' as we daily pray for each other and some of the mission concerns of our church.

1 <sup>ST</sup>	Beverly Hirsch (birthday)
2 <sup>ND</sup>	PC (USA) Agencies' Staff
3 <sup>RD</sup>	Europe
4 <sup>TH</sup>	Joyce Rayfield (birthday)
5 <sup>TH</sup>	Ireland/Northern Ireland
6 <sup>TH</sup>	United Kingdom
7 <sup>TH</sup>	Scotland
8 <sup>TH</sup>	Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel
9 <sup>TH</sup>	Portugal
10 <sup>TH</sup>	Italy
11 <sup>TH</sup>	Sue Burford (birthday)
12 <sup>TH</sup>	Germany
13 <sup>TH</sup>	Lithuania
14 <sup>TH</sup>	Czech Republic
15 <sup>TH</sup>	Sharon McCune (birthday)
16 <sup>TH</sup>	Sharon Metcalfe, (birthday)
17 <sup>TH</sup>	Russia
18 <sup>TH</sup>	Afghanistan
19 <sup>TH</sup>	Donna Farris
20 <sup>TH</sup>	Armenia
21 <sup>ST</sup>	Central Asia
22 <sup>ND</sup>	Sri Lanka
23 <sup>RD</sup>	Wilma Harris (birthday)
24 <sup>TH</sup>	Dr. Ed Burford (birthday)
25 <sup>TH</sup>	Middle East
26 <sup>TH</sup>	Jim Logan (birthday) Rob & Sarah Ross; Paul & Donna Farris (anniversary)
27 <sup>TH</sup>	Egypt
28 <sup>TH</sup>	Bill Syler (birthday)
29 <sup>TH</sup>	Israel/Palestine/Jerusalem
30 <sup>TH</sup>	Annabelle Spencer

From the Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study

O God, you created all people in your image. We thank you for the astonishing variety of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of friendship and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

# November 2016

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																									
		1	2 7:00 pm Choir Practice	3	4	5																																																																																																									
6 10:30 am Communion Worship Service Congregational Meeting 2:00 am Daylight Savings Time	7	8 11:00 am 2nd Tuesday at the Chateau	9 7:00 pm Choir Practice	10 7:00 pm Book Club	11	12																																																																																																									
13 10:30 am Worship Service Noon Gospel Music & Gather, Share, & Eat	14 7:00 pm Property Meeting	15	16 7:00 pm Choir Practice	17	18	19																																																																																																									
20 10:30 am Worship Service Noon Session Meeting	21	22	23 7:00 pm Choir Practice	24 Thanksgiving Office Closed	25 Office Closed	26																																																																																																									
27 10:30 am Worship Service Parade of Lights	28	29	30	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Oct 2016</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Dec 2016</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1 2 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Oct 2016							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						Dec 2016							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1 2 3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
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